appointed in the Education Department last year there was not a single man from Shertallai and he was sure that that was not due to want of applications from that taluk.

He deplored how the Judicial Department set at naught the resolution of the Legislative Council demanding the suspension of the recent *Civil Courts' Guide*. He suggested that a Registrar of Affidavits on a reasonable pay be appointed to lessen the difficulties of parties in getting affidavits duly attested by qualified persons.

98. Defects in the public service and the difficulties of the litigant public.

Mr. P. K. Joseph (Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam) represented that the hardship the people suffered on account of the indifference of Government officials was great. He confined his remarks to the irregularities of the judicial subordinates owing to lack of supervision by their superiors which was the key to efficiency. The laxity of control of the High Court over the lower judiciary led to accumulation of arrears in all the courts, and even the highest tribunal was not free from that defect.

99. Need for observing certain principles in making appointments and promotions in the public service and for retiring higher officers after the age of 55.

Mr. K. M. Manman Mappillai (Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla) prefaced his representation with the remark that it was gratifying to note that the Malayalam shorthand writers appointed by the Government were doing their work quite well. He then stated that the public service of the State stood in need of improvement in certain respects. In the first place, there was no consistency in the principle followed in the matter of appointments. Instances were not wanting of new posts being created to benefit particular individuals and not with a view to secure efficiency in the service. There were, again, officers who bestowed their official patronage exclusively on their castemen. Government should call for a list of appointments made by heads of departments and satisfy themselves that the powers of appointment vested in those officers were not wantonly abused. Another regrettable feature of the State service was the absence of principle in the matter of promotions. Junior men in the service were often given sudden lifts, in disregard of the claims of men of proved ability and senior to them in service. Extensions of service were given, in some cases, to officers in service after the completion of their 55th year. The interests of the service required that acts of that kind that savoured of official nepotism should not be countenanced. Again, the practice of promoting Judges of the High Court to executive posts was highly objectionable; for the prospect of promotion would induce them to court popularity and that might naturally interfere with the efficient discharge of their judicial functions. Another evil that called for urgent remedy was the prevalence of corruption in the different branches of the State service. The Member suggested that the matter should be thoroughly investigated and the erring officers sought out and brought to book.

100. Recruitment to Public service.

Mr. K. C. Eapen B. A. (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum), while appreciating the desire of the Government to approach public questions from the popular standpoint, stated that the administration of the State was not all that it ought to be. Laxity of principle, especially in matters of appointment, and inordinate delay in the settlement of even urgent matters were features common to almost all departments of the State service. Some heads of departments, without realising their duties and responsibilities, resorted to objectionable ways and practices highly detrimental to the interests of the State. The statements of appointments furnished by departmental heads were in some cases quite misleading. Instances were not wanting of officers who would bestow their official favours on none but those of their own community. The Member thought that those evils could not be remedied unless men of good character, conscience and common sense were recruited to the service. In his opinion, the present system of recruitment was defective in that it not only shut out from the service men of real worth, but also produced much communal strife in the State. The Member suggested that recruitment in general should be regulated by a competitive examination, with the necessary safeguards to protect the interests of minorities. He also urged the necessity for the appointment of a committee so as to give the people some sort of responsibility in the matter

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of recruitment. The Member then referred to the Education Department and said that the distribution of appointments in that department was far from equitable. There was no settled principle to regulate appointments in the higher ranks of the service. The Member regretted that the authorities differed in regard to the relative importance of Indian and European degrees. The recent order of Government that only unmarried women be entertained in the educational service of the State was another matter for regret. Referring to the Survey Department, the Member said that the work of the Survey Assistants caused serious hardship to the people. In regard to the Judicial Department, the Member thought that there was a great deal of corruption in the lower ranks of that Department and especially in the execution branch of it, and that the existence of such corruption was quite inconsistent with the dignity of the department. Touching the Departments of Agriculture, Forest and Industries, he observed that his only suggestion in respect of those departments was that they should be made to do something for the real benefit of the people. The Member concluded his representation with the request that, in the administration of the affairs of the State, the Government might take the people into their confidence to a greater extent than at present.

101. Periodical examinations for recruiting the best local talent for higher service.

Mr. S. Subbaraya Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Haripad) began by remarking that it was admitted on all hands that Travancore was the foremost State in all India in point of education and that it was only natural that new ideas should come in with such education. Though Travancore was hedged in between the sea and the Sahyadhri hills, it was not totally shut out from the rest of India, and the ideas of duty, patriotism and ambition to rise in the service, swaying the people of British India, were permeating the hearts of the sons of Travancore also. It was therefore disappointing to them to see that they were practically denied opportunities to rise to the highest office in the State. The Member referred to the circumstance that within recent memory Travancore never had a permanent native Dewan except in the persons of Messrs. Nanoo Pillai and Shungrasubbaier and examined in detail the reasons that could be alleged for that strange phenomenon. He refuted the argument that the British Government could not place confidence in native Dewans, and argued that, if they could be satisfied with one native Dewan, they could assuredly repose confidence in another, provided he was duly qualified. Many big offices in British India, he pointed out, were held by Indians. Citing the instance of Mr. Shungrasubbier who was nominated a member of the Madras Legislative Council after his retirement, the Member said that the charge of lack of intelligence could not be brought against Travancoreans. As there were no communal riots or disturbances in Travancore, it would, he said, be wrong to allege that native Dewans would not be able to hold the balance even between caste and caste. The chief reason for the present regrettable state of affairs in that respect was, in the Member's opinion, the denial of opportunities for them to rise to the height of their manhood. Foreign Dewans despised native talent and did not care to encourage it or bring up the sons of the soil. He criticised the present nature of the public service under which every graduate or graduate-in-law had to begin from the lowest rung of the ladder with the result that they became quite unfit in the end to be entrusted with higher and more responsible work. Merit, he said, was not being recognised, but service alone was taken into consideration in the matter of promotion. In addition to the above defects, there was, he observed, no proper selection of hands for the public service. To remedy the present state of affairs he suggested the introduction of a competitive examination and the recruitment of the first two or three successful candidates to the *cadre* of Division Assistants on probation for 2 or 3 years on a pay of Rs. 200. After a period of ten years' service they should be deputed to study, at first hand, the administration of British India in the several departments. The Member said that he was sure that by such means Travancoreans could be trained to occupy the highest office in the State.

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